

Our MISSION

To discover knowledge, develop VA researchers and health care leaders, and create innovations that translate into advances in health care for veterans and the nation.

Mission Statement, VHA Office of Research and Development

The mission statement above merges the key concepts that are the driving forces behind the VA research program. Dedicated investigators and research administrators throughout the VA system, some of the brightest minds in medical science, pursue new knowledge that will lead to innovations that improve health care for veterans and all Americans. In addition, we devote significant time and energy to training scientists and other health care leaders who will carry this effort into the future.

In carrying out its mission, the Office of Research and Development oversees a program that crosses a spectrum of science including biomedicine, rehabilitation, health services and clinical trials. Our four services organize their efforts around diseases and health conditions that are prevalent among veterans.

■ **Medical Research Service (MRS)** focuses on fundamental research on disorders of significance to the veteran population. It conducts research on the causes, progression, diagnosis, and treatment of virtually the full range of diseases and disorders affecting veterans. MRS supports clinicians and non-clinician researchers studying diabetes, heart disease, cancer, neurological disorders, serious mental illness and numerous other diseases and conditions.

■ **Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D)**, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2002, works to identify and evaluate innovative strategies that lead to accessible, high quality, cost-effective care for veterans. Its researchers address VA health care priorities such as: patient outcomes, quality of care, access to care, cost and cost-effectiveness, alternative organizational and delivery models, and development of new research methods and measurement tools. HSR&D's key contributions include the Quality Enhancement Research Initiative, which is designed to rapidly translate research results into improved patient care.



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■ **Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D)** supports studies that advance new knowledge to optimize rehabilitation health care for veterans with disabilities. It emphasizes research that focuses on both care and cure. Priority areas include prosthetics development and amputation prevention, diseases of the bone and joint, spinal cord injury and other neurological disorders, hearing loss, vision impairment and disabilities associated with aging.

■ **The Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)** is one of the nation's premier clinical research efforts. With the VA health care system providing an exceptional laboratory, CSP conducts large, multi-center clinical trials of new therapies and diagnostic strategies. CSP collaborates with colleagues in the United States and around the world to determine the effectiveness of treatments that may benefit veterans and the general population.

This summary provides a brief overview of the VA research enterprise. Elsewhere in this report, you will find selected research achievements from 2002, descriptions of the partnerships that strengthen our efforts, a look toward our future and listings of our special research centers. Together, these parts represent our commitment to the mission of conducting research that helps to ensure the veterans of today and tomorrow receive the superior health care they have earned.

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Development Officer



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